

What is claimed:

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1. A method for accounting for network usage comprising:
- obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;
- obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector; and
- correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said obtaining accounting start-stop event data further comprises:
- parsing said accounting start-stop event data from said accounting server on a prescribed time interval; and
- publishing said accounting start-stop event data on an information bus.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said obtaining accounting start-stop event data further comprises:

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collecting said accounting start-stop event data at a target device that subscribes to said accounting start-stop event data.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said obtaining accounting start-stop event data further comprises:

collecting said accounting start-stop event data at a target device that subscribes to said accounting start-stop event data.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said obtaining network flow data further comprises:

aggregating said network flow data at said network flow collector according to a service provider defined aggregation scheme.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein aggregating said network flow data further comprises:

basing aggregation of said network flow data on a specified time period.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein aggregating said network flow data further comprises:

basing aggregation of said network flow data on the Internet Protocol Layer 3

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source address.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein aggregating said network flow data further comprises:

basing aggregation of said network flow data on the Internet Protocol Layer 4 destination address.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said obtaining network flow data further comprises:

filtering said network flow data at said network flow collector according to a service provider defined filtration scheme.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said obtaining network flow data further comprises:

collecting said network flow data from said a router and forwarding said network flow data to said network flow collector;

aggregating said network flow data according to a defined aggregation scheme;

parsing said network flow data from said network flow collector;

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publishing said network flow data on an information bus; and

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said obtaining network flow data further comprises:

filtering said network flow data according to a service provider defined filtration scheme.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data further comprises:

reformatting said call detail record to meet post-correlated applications.

13. A method for accounting for network usage comprising:

parsing accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server on a prescribed time interval;

publishing said accounting start-stop event data on an information bus;

collecting network flow data from a network router and forwarding said network flow data to a network flow collector;

aggregating said network flow data according to a prescribed aggregation

scheme;

72 parsing said network flow data from said network flow collector;

publishing said network flow data on an information bus;

collecting said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data at a target device that subscribes to said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data; and

correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

14. A method for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data within a computer network comprising:

obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through intermediary netflow collectors; and

correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a call detail record.

15. An apparatus for accounting for network usage comprising:

a means for obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

a means for obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector; and

a means for correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

16. An apparatus for accounting for network usage comprising:

a means for parsing accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server on a prescribed time interval;

a means for publishing said accounting start-stop event data on an information bus;

a means for collecting network flow data from a network router and forwarding said network flow data to a network flow collector;

a means for aggregating said network flow data according to a defined aggregation scheme;

22 a means for parsing said network flow data from said network flow collector;

a means for publishing said network flow data on an information bus;

a means for collecting said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data at a target device that subscribes to said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data; and

a means for correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

17. An apparatus for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data within a computer network comprising:

a means for obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

a means for obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector; and

a means for correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a call detail record.

18. An apparatus for accounting for network usage comprising:

- an accounting adapter in communication with accounting start-stop event data;
- a network flow adapter in communication with network flow data; and
- an integrating accounting adapter in communication with said accounting adapter and said network flow adapter which correlates said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said accounting adapter further comprises:

- a parser in communication with an accounting server storing accounting start-stop event data; and

- a publisher in communication with an information bus.

20. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said network flow adapter further comprises:

- a parser in communication with a network router storing network flow data;

- an aggregator that assembles said network flow data according to an aggregation scheme; and



~~a publisher in communication with an information bus.~~

21. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said ~~integrating accounting adapter further~~ comprises:

a correlator that assembles said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a call detail record; and

a reformatter in communication with a post processing application device that reformats the data according to service provider requirements.

22. An apparatus for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data within a computer network comprising:

an accounting adapter in communication with accounting start-stop event data;

a network flow adapter in communication with network flow data; and

an integrating accounting adapter in communication with said accounting adapter and said network flow adapter which correlates said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

23. A program storage device readable by a machine tangibly embodying a program

of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for accounting for network usage, said method comprising:

obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector; and

correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

24. A program storage device readable by a machine tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data in a computer network, said method comprising:

obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector; and

correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

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25. A communication system for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data within a computer network comprising:

a plurality of hosts that are provided computer networking capability through a point of presence;

a network access server in communication with said hosts;

an accounting server in communication with said network access server;

an accounting adapter in communication with said accounting server;

a network flow collector in communication with routers throughout the computer network;

a network flow adapter in communication with said netflow collector; and

an integrating accounting adapter in communication with said accounting adapter and said network flow adapter.

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